THE HUMAN FLY™

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THE WILDEST SUPER-HERO EVER--BECAUSE HE'S REAL!

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THE HUMAN FLY™

CHASM OF FEAR!

WEST-TV

LUBBERS w/ MILFORD

60

0 71486 02750 0

STILL MORE BAD NEWS

THIS SUMMER

THE BAD NEWS BEARS WILL BE BACK

IN THEIR ALL NEW FILM COMEDY

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SEE IT THIS SUMMER AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU

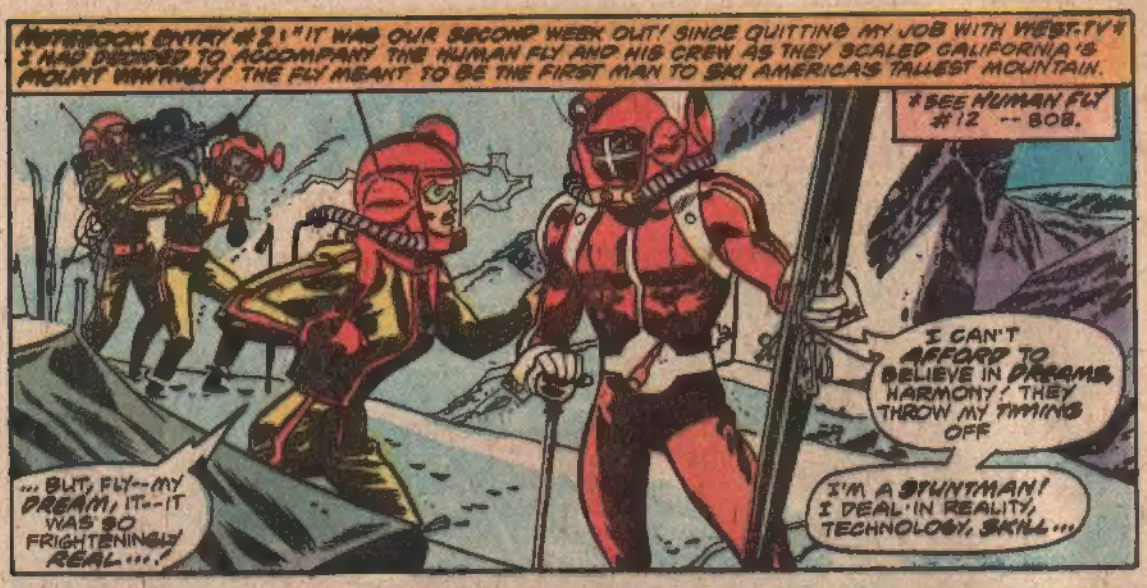
One night in 1971, on a lonely North Carolina highway, a head-on *car crash* cost a young driver his family—and, very nearly, his *life!* Hardly a bone in his body remained *unbroken*. His doctors were *sure* that he would never *move* again... But he *triumphed* over his disability and went on to become the *wildest hero* of all—because he's *REAL!*

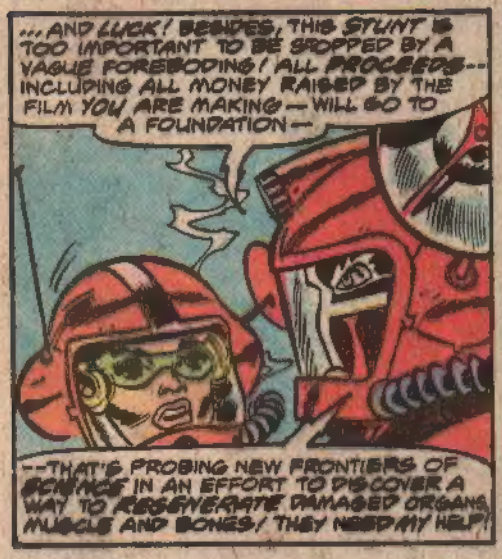
Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE HUMAN FLY!

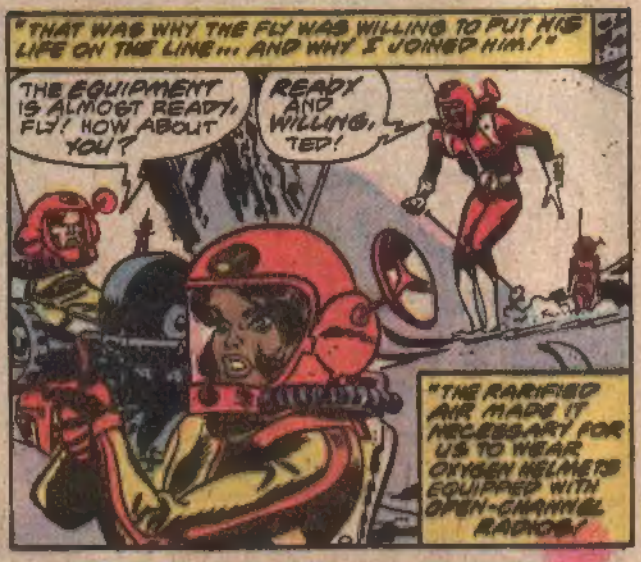
BILL MANTLO, WRITER * FRANK ROBBINS, PENCILS * F. SPRINGER, INKS * D. WOHL, LETTERS G. ROUSSOS, COLORS * BOB HALL, EDITOR J. SHOOTER, ED-IN-CHIEF

SLOPE OF DEATH!
I CAN'T STOP! I'M GOING OVER THE EDGE!
FROM THE REPORTER'S NOTE-BOOK OF HARMONY WHYTE: "FOR ME THE SCENE DEPICTED ON THIS PAGE WAS MERELY A NIGHTMARE FROM WHICH I KNEW I WOULD AWAKE!
M-MY GOD! HIS DRAG-CHUTE DIDN'T OPEN!
THE FLY'S DOOMED!
"BUT, IF MY EX-BOSS, CARL BRADEN, HAD HIS WAY, THE NIGHTMARE WOULD SOON BECOME A REALITY FOR THE HUMAN FLY!"
GET THAT SHOT, CAMERAMAN! THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR--
--THE DEATH OF THE HUMAN FLY!
NO! NO! NOOOoooo...!

THE HUMAN FLY™ is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Office of Publication: 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10022. Published monthly. Copyright ©1978 HUMAN FLY SPECTACULARS, LTD. All rights reserved. Copyright ©1978 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, A Division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Vol. 1, No. 13, September, 1978 issue. Price 35¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate: $4.50 for 12 issues. Canada, $5.50. Foreign, $6.50. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers, and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. Application for second class postage pending at New York and additional mailing offices.


NOTEBOOK ENTRY #2: "IT WAS OUR SECOND WEEK OUT! SINCE QUITTING MY JOB WITH WEST-TV I HAD DECIDED TO ACCOMPANY THE HUMAN FLY AND HIS CREW AS THEY SCALED CALIFORNIA'S MOUNT WHITNEY! THE FLY MEANT TO BE THE FIRST MAN TO SKI AMERICA'S TALLEST MOUNTAIN.
*SEE HUMAN FLY #12 -- BOB.
I CAN'T AFFORD TO BELIEVE IN DREAMS, HARMONY! THEY THROW MY TIMING OFF
I'M A STUNTMAN! I DEAL IN REALITY, TECHNOLOGY, SKILL...
...BUT, FLY--MY DREAM, IT--IT WAS SO FRIGHTENINGLY REAL...!


...AND LUCK! BESIDES, THIS STUNT IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE STOPPED BY A VAGUE FOREBODING! ALL PROCEEDS--INCLUDING ALL MONEY RAISED BY THE FILM YOU ARE MAKING--WILL GO TO A FOUNDATION--
--THAT'S PROBING NEW FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE IN AN EFFORT TO DISCOVER A WAY TO REGENERATE DAMAGED ORGANS, MUSCLE AND BONES! THEY NEED MY HELP!


"THAT WAS WHY THE FLY WAS WILLING TO PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE... AND WHY I JOINED HIM!"
THE EQUIPMENT IS ALMOST READY, FLY! HOW ABOUT YOU?
READY AND WILLING, TED!
"THE RARIFIED AIR MADE IT NECESSARY FOR US TO WEAR OXYGEN HELMETS EQUIPPED WITH OPEN-CHANNEL RADIOS."

"MY JOB WAS TO MONITOR EVERY WORD SPOKEN BY THE FLY OR HIS CREW FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE STUNT--
I'VE IMPROVED THE PITON-GUN, FLY!
"--TO ITS VERY END!"

IT WORKS AS WELL AS WHEN YOU SCALED THAT SKY-SCRAPER IN QUEBEC--*
--BUT NOW IT ANCHORS TO ICE AS WELL AS STONE!
*SEE HUMAN FLY #5 -- BOB.

AND THIS SPECIAL TELEPHOTO TAPE-CAMERA YOU DESIGNED WILL REVOLUTIONIZE SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY, TED!

"BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER ENCAMPMENT BESIDES OURS ON THOSE FROZEN SLOPES! AN EXPEDITION HEADED BY..."
MR. BRADEN--IT LOOKS LIKE THE FLY'S GETTING READY TO BEGIN HIS STUNT!
WEST-TV
IS THE SNOW-SLED READY FOR ME?
YESSIR--BUT I STILL THINK IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO RISK...!
YOU MAY BE THE BEST CAMERAMAN IN THE BUSINESS, ABRAMS--BUT NO ONE ASKED YOU FOR YOUR OPINIONS!
THIS STUNT WILL MARK THE FLY FOR THE CHARLATAN I'VE ALWAYS SUSPECTED HIM TO BE! MINE WILL BE THE EYE BEHIND OUR MAIN CAMERA WHEN HE FAILS!
--AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT IS TO FOLLOW HIM DOWN WITH A CAMERA MOUNTED ON THE SNOW-SLED!
YOU AND THE OTHERS WILL SHOOT BACKUP FOOTAGE!
YOU'RE THE BOSS, MR. BRADEN!
BLASTED RIGHT I AM... EH? THE FLY! SKIING TOWARDS US!
BRADEN--I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU!
I DON'T MIND YOU COVERING MY STUNT FOR YOUR STATION... IT'S A FREE COUNTRY--
--BUT I THOUGHT BUGGING WENT OUT WITH WATERGATE!
IF YOU WANTED AN INTERVIEW, YOU MIGHT HAVE ASKED ME!

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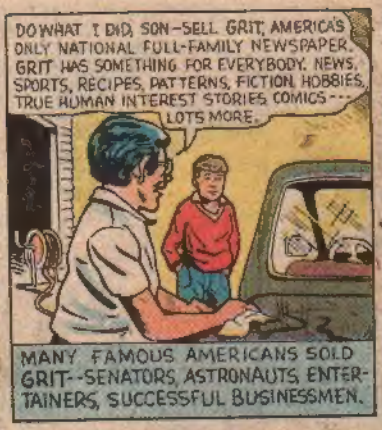
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WHO'S FOR A DOUBLE BURGER? MY TREAT!
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WELL, I GOT TO BE PRODUCER AT WEST-TV BY EXPOSING FRAUDS LIKE YOU!
SO GO AHEAD AND GET YOURSELF KILLED, STUNTMAN--
--WHILE I INSURE THAT THE WORLD SEES IT ALL!
STRANGE! CAN'T TELL BECAUSE OF HER HELMET... BUT I FEEL AS IF I KNOW THE FLY'S NEW CREW MEMBER!
"AS I ENTERED OUR CONTROL TENT TO READY THE EQUIPMENT, I KNEW BRADEN'S CAMERA'S WERE SCANNING OUR CAMP--
"--THE SOPHISTICATED TV-BROADCAST EQUIPMENT THAT TED HAD DEVELOPED--
"--AND US!
"AND I WONDERED WHAT MY EX-BOSS WOULD THINK IF HE KNEW THAT THE 'NEW CREW MEMBER' IN CHARGE OF FILMING THE FLY'S STUNT--
WEST-TV
"--WAS HIS FORMER ACE REPORTER--
"--ME... HARMONY WHYTE!"
WHOEVER SHE IS, SHE'S A PRO! MAYBE I'LL OFFER HER A JOB--
--WHEN THE FLY'S OUT OF THE PICTURE!

BUT I HAD A JOB TO DO, AND I COULDN'T WORRY ABOUT CARL BRADEN!
TED'S AND BLAZE'S CAMERAS ARE NOW COMPUTER-SYNCHRONIZED WITH MY MONITORS!
ONCE I ACTIVATE THE SYSTEM... WHATEVER HAPPENS--
--WILL BE RECORDED FOR POSTERITY!
WIN OR LOSE, FLY... THE WORLD WILL KNOW OF IT!
"BLAZE'S VOICE CAME THROUGH MY HEADSET, LOUD AND CLEAR!"
...A BIT TO THE LEFT, FLY! THERE SEEMS TO BE A HANDHOLD JUST ABOVE--
"THEN, THROUGH A SWIRL OF STATIC, AN IMAGE BEGAN TO COME INTO FOCUS ON THE SCREENS BEFORE ME!
MONITOR
"AN IMAGE FROM THE HELMET-MOUNTED CAMERA OF...
"...THE HUMAN FLY!"
FLY! WHAT'S WRONG?!
MY PICK HIT A HIDDEN SNOW POCKET, BLAZE-- THREW ME OFF BALANCE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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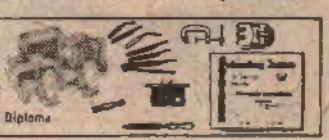

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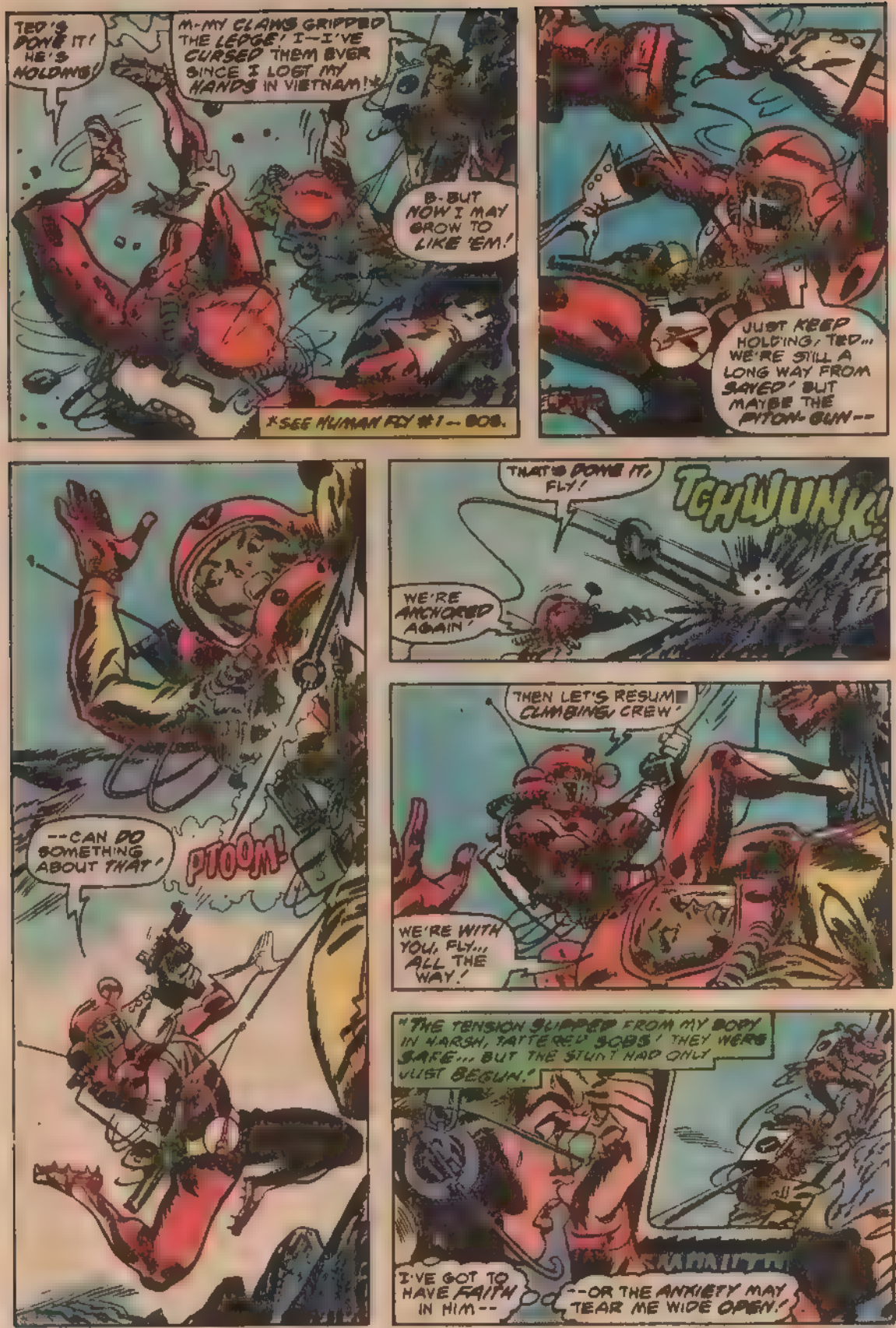
I'M SLIPPING!!
F-FLY!
BLAZE! TED! ANCHOR YOURSELVES--
-- BEFORE MY FALL TEARS YOU FROM THE ROCK FACE!
OH, MY GOD--FLY!
"I GASPED IN TERROR! THE STUNT SEEMED OVER BEFORE IT HAD EVEN BEGUN!
"--AND, BELOW, IN A HOTEL AT THE FOOT OF MT WHITNEY, ARNIE DOYMAN--THE FLY'S PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN--WAS ASSURING A BEVY OF REPORTERS ..."
THE FLY IS ON HIS WAY! THE REPORT OF A FEW MINUTES AGO--
-- SAYS HE'S REACHED THE FIRST SLOPE WITHOUT DIFFICULTY!
"IT'S A GOOD THING ARNIE COULDN'T SEE WHAT I WAS SEEING!"
T-TED ... I'VE BEEN PULLED LOOSE, TOO!
4-ARMS TEARING FROM THEIR SOCKETS--
-- BUT I'VE GOT TO HOLD ON! I'VE GOT TO!
"THEY WERE OUT [redacted] FIGHTING TO SURVIVE ... WHILE I COULD ONLY WATCH IN HORROR--
[redacted] -- AND PRAY!"


TED'S DONE IT! HE'S HOLDING!
M-MY CLAWS GRIPPED THE LEDGE! I—I'VE CURSED THEM EVER SINCE I LOST MY HANDS IN VIETNAM!*
B-BUT NOW I MAY GROW TO LIKE 'EM!
*SEE HUMAN FLY #1 — BOB.
JUST KEEP HOLDING, TED... WE'RE STILL A LONG WAY FROM SAVED! BUT MAYBE THE PITON-GUN—
--CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT!
PTOOM!
THAT'S DONE IT, FLY!
TCHWUNK!
WE'RE ANCHORED AGAIN!
THEN LET'S RESUME CLIMBING, CREW!
WE'RE WITH YOU, FLY... ALL THE WAY!
"THE TENSION SLIPPED FROM MY BODY IN HARSH, RATTERED SOBS! THEY WERE SAFE... BUT THE STUNT HAD ONLY JUST BEGUN!
I'VE GOT TO HAVE FAITH IN HIM—
—OR THE ANXIETY MAY TEAR ME WIDE OPEN!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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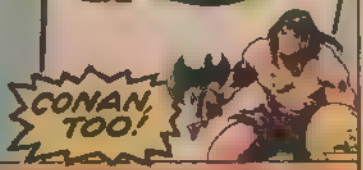

ALSO, THE

*SORRY KIDS ADULT SIZES ONLY ON RED SONJA. SHE'S JUST TOO HOT TO HANDLE!

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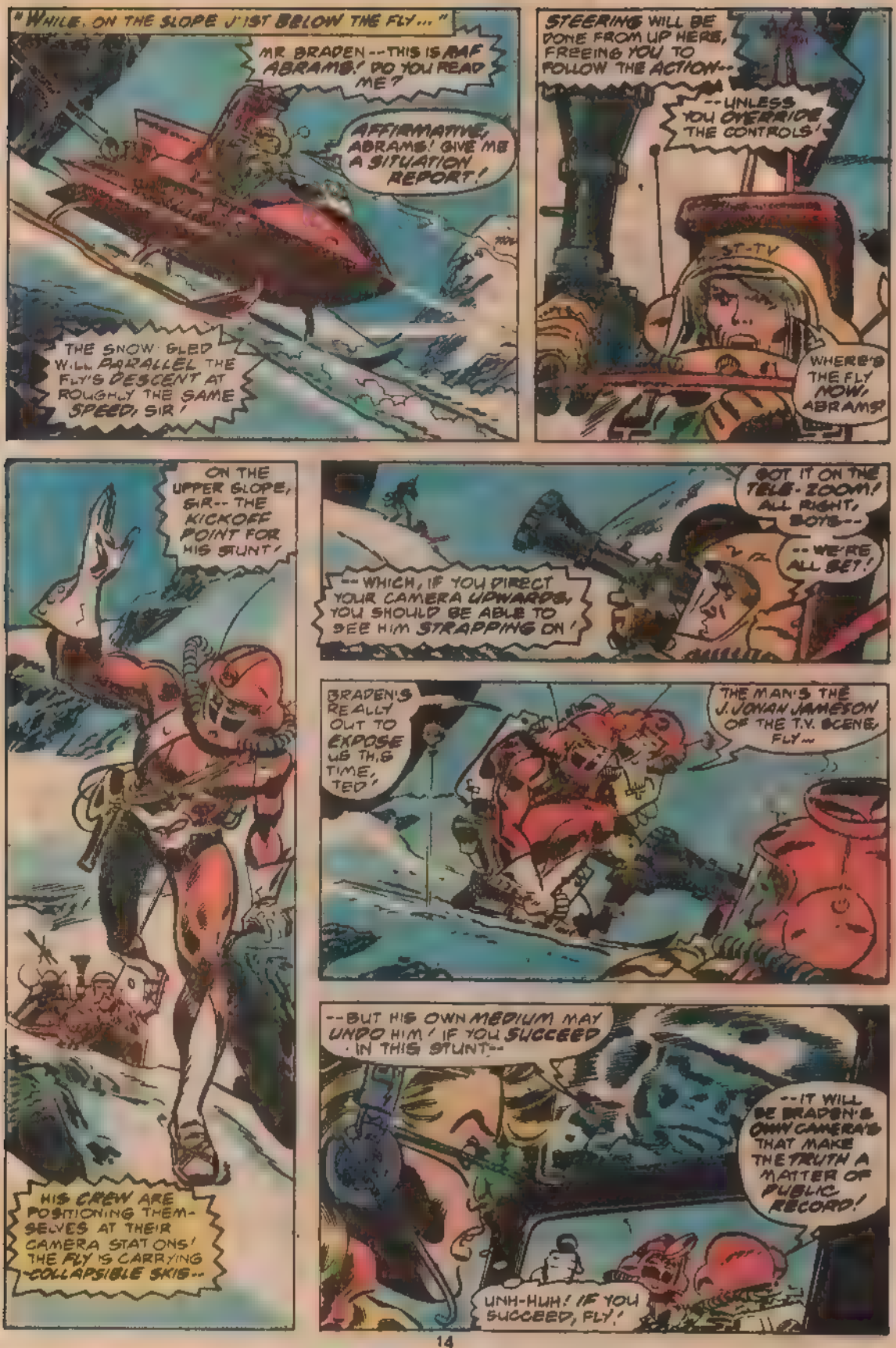
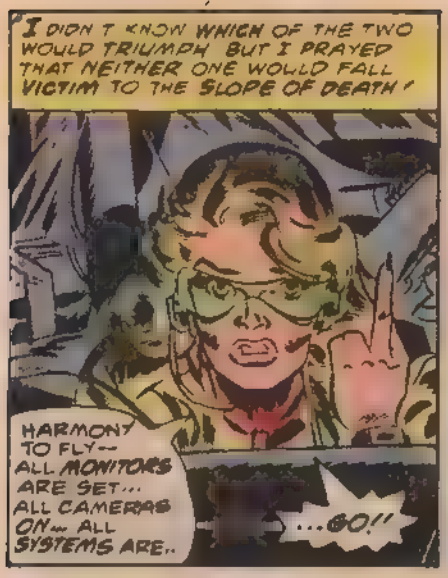
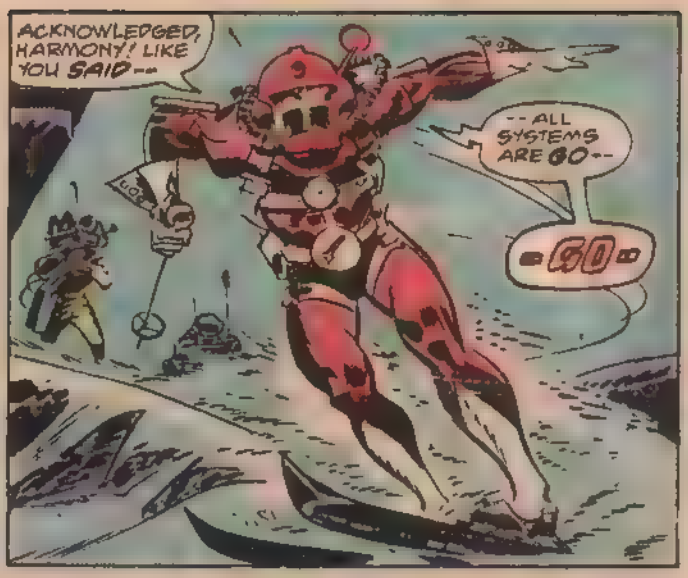

"WHILE, ON THE SLOPE J'IST BELOW THE FLY..."
MR BRADEN--THIS IS RAF ABRAMS! DO YOU READ ME?
AFFIRMATIVE, ABRAMS! GIVE ME A SITUATION REPORT!
THE SNOW SLED WILL PARALLEL THE FLY'S DESCENT AT ROUGHLY THE SAME SPEED, SIR!
STEERING WILL BE DONE FROM UP HERE, FREEING YOU TO FOLLOW THE ACTION--
--UNLESS YOU OVERRIDE THE CONTROLS!
ST-TV
WHERE'S THE FLY NOW, ABRAMS?
ON THE UPPER SLOPE, SIR-- THE KICKOFF POINT FOR HIS STUNT!
HIS CREW ARE POSITIONING THEMSELVES AT THEIR CAMERA STATIONS! THE FLY IS CARRYING COLLAPSIBLE SKIS--
--WHICH, IF YOU DIRECT YOUR CAMERA UPWARDS, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE HIM STRAPPING ON!
GOT IT ON THE TELE-ZOOM! ALL RIGHT, BOYS--
--WE'RE ALL SET!
BRADEN'S REALLY OUT TO EXPOSE US THIS TIME, TED!
THE MAN'S THE J. JONAH JAMESON OF THE T.V. SCENE, FLY--
--BUT HIS OWN MEDIUM MAY UNDO HIM! IF YOU SUCCEED IN THIS STUNT--
--IT WILL BE BRADEN'S OWN CAMERAS THAT MAKE THE TRUTH A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD!
UNH-HUH! IF YOU SUCCEED, FLY!

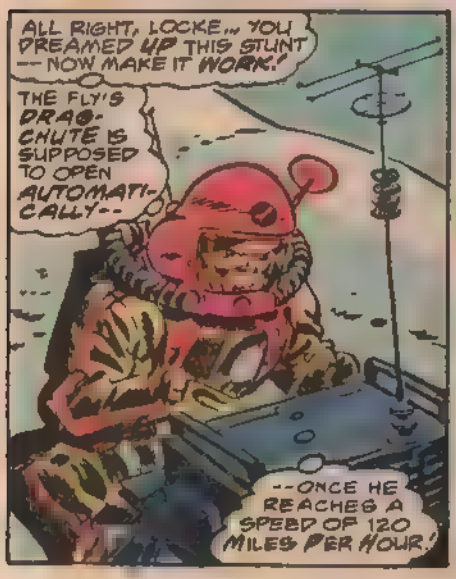
"BUT, IF I WAS PLAGUED BY DOUBTS-- SO, TOO, WAS EARL BRADEN!"
WEST-TV
WHAT IF HE DOES IT, BRADEN? WHERE'S YOUR CREDIBILITY THEN?
"WHILE, AT THE HOTEL..."
THIS STUNT WAS PERFORMED ONCE BEFORE-- WHEN YUICHIRO MIURA SKIED DOWN MT. EVEREST IN 1970!
THE FLY WILL USE A PARACHUTE TO SLOW HIS 120 M.P.H. SPEED BEFORE HE REACHES THE RAVINE--
--AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SLOPE OF DEATH!
"BUT, UNKNOWN TO ANYONE, WHAT HAD BEGUN AS ONE MAN'S CHALLENGE TO A MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN--
"--AND BECAME INSTEAD A CONTEST OF WILLS--NO UNYIELDING PROFESSIONAL
"ONE, THE FLY, WAS RISKING HIS LIFE FOR GOALS HE BELIEVED IN--
"--WHILE THE OTHER, EARL BRADEN, WAS PUTTING HIS LIFE AT THE MERCY OF TWO FRAGILE CABLE LINES--
-TV
"--BECAUSE HE BELIEVED IN NOTHING!


I DIDN'T KNOW WHICH OF THE TWO WOULD TRIUMPH BUT I PRAYED THAT NEITHER ONE WOULD FALL VICTIM TO THE SLOPE OF DEATH!
HARMONY TO FLY-- ALL MONITORS ARE SET... ALL CAMERAS ON... ALL SYSTEMS ARE..
...GO!!

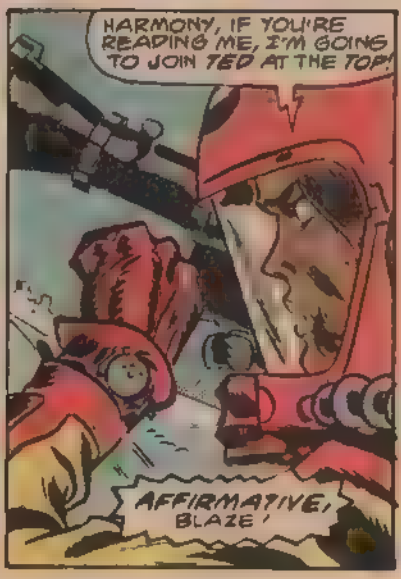

ACKNOWLEDGED, HARMONY! LIKE YOU SAID--
--ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO--
-GO-

-GO!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS... I HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED FROM OUR STATION ATOP MT. WHITNEY..
--THAT THE STUNT HAS BEGUN!!


ALL RIGHT, LOCKE... YOU DREAMED UP THIS STUNT -- NOW MAKE IT WORK!
THE FLY'S DRAG-CHUTE IS SUPPOSED TO OPEN AUTOMATICALLY--
--ONCE HE REACHES A SPEED OF 120 MILES PER HOUR!

IF IT DOESN'T, WELL...
..THE FLY WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME!


HARMONY, IF YOU'RE READING ME, I'M GOING TO JOIN TED AT THE TOP!
AFFIRMATIVE, BLAZE!

"TRACKING ON ALL CAMERAS, WE COULD SEE THE FLY AND BRADEN RACING DOWN THE SLOPE--
"--AND WE ALL HELD OUR BREATH, LEST THE SLIGHTEST WHISPER IN HIS HEADSET DISRUPT THE FLY'S CONCENTRATION!"
"THE FLY WAS TRULY ALONE NOW--
"-- AND HE KNEW IT!"
HAVE YOU GOT HIM ON THE STATIONARY CAMERAS POSITIONED ALONG THE SLOPE, TED?
CHECK, BLAZE! EVERYTHING'S GOING SMOOTHLY!
MAYBE TOO SMOOTHLY.
BRADEN'S GETTING TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!
"AND, IN THE CONTROL TENT...
MOVE OFF, CARL! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
"IF BRADEN RECOGNIZED MY VOICE COMING THROUGH HIS HEADSET, HE GAVE NO SIGN--
"--AND HE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO HIS FRANTIC CAMERAMAN!"
CARL! LET US STEER YOU BY REMOTE! YOU'RE GETTING TOO CLOSE!
WHEN I WANT YOUR ADVICE, ABRAMS-- I'LL ASK FOR IT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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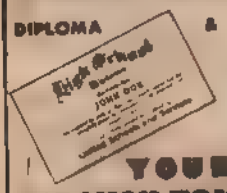

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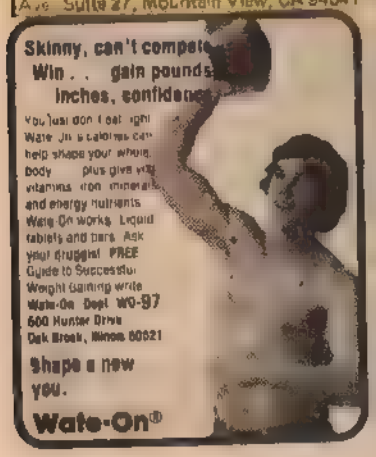

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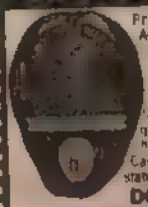

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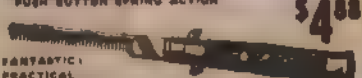

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FLY PAPERS

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BOB HALL
EDITOR
MARY JO DUFFY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A short while ago we promised you not only a photo feature on the very real HUMAN FLY, but also a missive from the *man* himself. Well, that photo feature is slated for HUMAN FLY #15, and the latter, well, just cast your gaze downward, True Believers. .

Dear Marvel,

I have been reading the many letters that you have been forwarding to me with great interest.

I am certainly very pleased about the response to the comic series, but more than that, to the positive reaction of your readers towards the Human Fly. It makes me very happy and inspires me a great deal, to see the enthusiasm and support I'm getting from Marvel fans.

As you may very well know, a short while ago I was injured while attempting to jump 26 buses on a rocket bike in Montreal, Canada. I found myself once again in a hospital bed, from where I am writing this letter. This experience in the hospital reminds me of that auto accident of many years ago in Ashville, North Carolina.

One would think that this second confinement would discourage me. Quite the contrary. If anything, it is giving me more strength to go ahead with my hopes of becoming the world's greatest philanthropic daredevil. As you know, I want to help other people less fortunate than myself by donating a good portion of my earnings to world research and to charitable organizations.

My fans probably don't know this, but, as a child I was exposed to a strong musical background. I have decided that, in addition to my daredevil stunts, I will pursue my musical career (which I stopped somewhat after the accident). I've always been interested in rock music. It seems to me to have the same kind of vitality and uniqueness that I wish to project in my stunts.

May I just say that soon you'll be hearing from the Human Fly musically. I'll be going into the recording studio as soon as I am out of the hospital to tape my first album. I hope that my friends out there, in addition to looking for my stunts and TV appearances, will keep their eyes and ears open for the Human Fly Rock Show. I hope to make people happy with my music as well as my daredevil feats. And, as with my stunts, a good part of any money I earn through my music will be turned over to charitable organizations in whatever cities I perform.

Best regards to everyone

THE HUMAN FLY

...and there you have it, Marvelites!

Dear Marvel,

I think the HUMAN FLY is super fantastic! How about a MARVEL TREASURY EDITION devoted to him??

Alex McCort
PO Box 87
Morristown, OH

A good idea. We'll pass it on to Stan (the Man) for approval.

Dear Bill, Frank and Company

Sorry to hear about the Fly's accident. I hope your information is up-to-date, and I hope this letter finds him well on his way to a speedy recovery. It is indeed a puzzle what would become of this mag should the real Fly meet his death in real life. Although I hope that never happens, I think that he would want you to carry on writing and illustrating the most inspiring stories possible—as you are now. As you say, his message of hope and courage is what you bring us every month. Once again, I hope the Fly recovers—the loss of such a man would be great loss, indeed.

I'd like to extend congratulation to you all at Marvel for your portrayal of this real life hero. His reactions this issue, HUMAN FLY #8, fighting Copperhead for the good of the kids in his charge was exciting, believable and realistic. For that matter, congratulations on the entire FLY series.

PMM Matt Kaufman
303 W. Pennsylvania
Urbana, IL 61801

As you can see from the Fly's letter, Matthew (and from our depiction of his stunt in HUMAN FLY #11) he's progressing rapidly towards full recovery and should be up and around, performing braver and better than ever by the time this letter sees print.

Bill,

I can see you worked hard on HUMAN FLY #8 (as did Frank Robbins—some of the finest work I've seen from *Frank* in a long time!), building up the correct situation (your basically normal Marvel Universe crime by a super-villain) and then throwing the Fly in, motivationally backed against a wall where he was unable to do anything else but face the villain down. Because the Fly *thought* and *acted* like the Fly, this issue was a success. For just two issues, the book will be an interesting experiment in seeing how he would react to occurrences that are familiar to the rest of the Marvel Universe.

However, I can see that you might have a little trouble with the Fly's direction soon, since this issue asked the question (and answers it): "Is the Human Fly a crimefighter? And, if not, why does he become involved in situations where a crime is taking place?"

My answers: Above all else, the Fly is a man of positive action. In other words, over all feelings of impotence that a normal person might feel forced into were such an outlandish situation to confront him, the Fly triumphs through an act of positive assertion of will. He saw his duty (to the children and their continued healthy and happy existence, which Copperhead threatened) and he done it (stopping the threat, i.e., Copperhead) to coin a phrase.

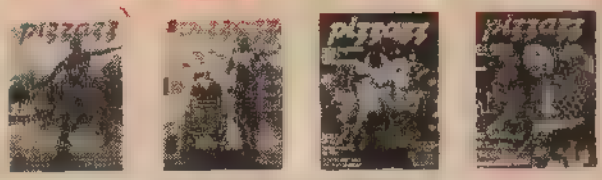
The Human Fly is *not* a crimefighter because he has not devoted his life to fighting crime. However, to do nothing when he might help would go against everything he stands for (our own internal potency and ability to deal with situations, to stand against the forces which make "cripples" out of us all).

The interweaving between an actual symbol (The Human Fly) and an intended symbol (The White Tiger) was well handled. However, someone ought to warn Hector that, when you become a symbol, you can very easily lose your humanity (look at Mr. Steve Rogers—if you can *find* him!). The Fly had no choice in being what he is (a symbol). . . Hector has a choice, and should consider his future very carefully.

Steven Allan Bennett
842 Hunt Street
Akron, OH 44306

Sorry we had to cut short your moving and well thought out letter, Steve, but we tried to leave the gist of it intact. We take your points to hand and will indeed be very careful in the directions we choose for the Fly mag. . .and, as for Hector Ayala (The White Tiger) we'll be seriously developing *his* character in the pages of THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. . . along the lines of contrasting him (a hero whose identity is known to the world) with Peter Parker (who keeps his Spidey identity to Himself). Check it out, Mr. B!

WHEW!



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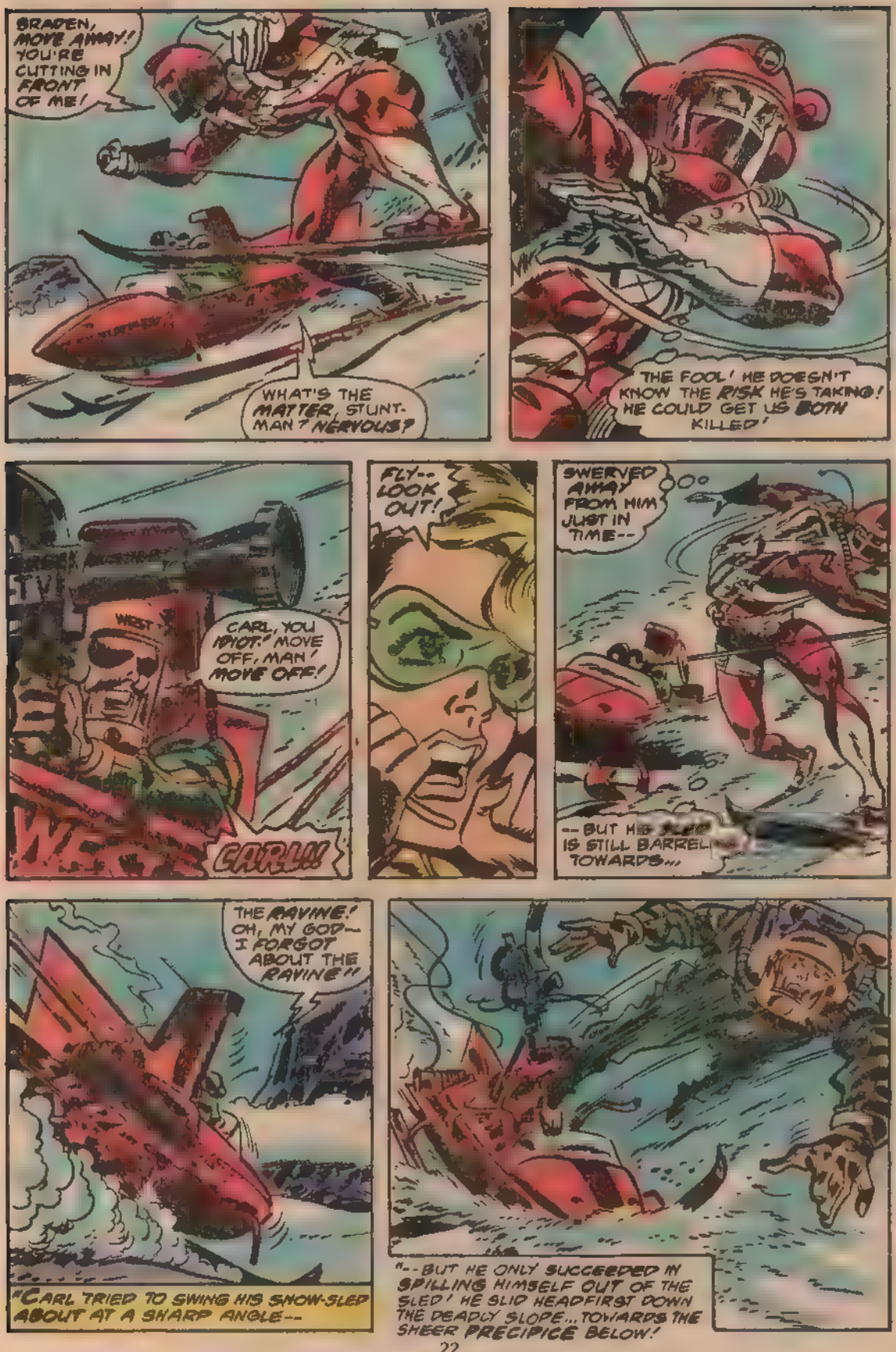
BRADEN, MOVE AWAY! YOU'RE CUTTING IN FRONT OF ME!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, STUNT-MAN? NERVOUS?
THE FOOL! HE DOESN'T KNOW THE RISK HE'S TAKING! HE COULD GET US BOTH KILLED!
CARL, YOU IDIOT! MOVE OFF, MAN! MOVE OFF!
CARL!!!
FLY-- LOOK OUT!
SWERVED AWAY FROM HIM JUST IN TIME--
--BUT HE IS STILL BARREL TOWARDS...
THE RAVINE! OH, MY GOD-- I FORGOT ABOUT THE RAVINE!!
"CARL TRIED TO SWING HIS SNOW-SLED ABOUT AT A SHARP ANGLE--
"--BUT HE ONLY SUCCEEDED IN SPILLING HIMSELF OUT OF THE SLED! HE SLID HEADFIRST DOWN THE DEADLY SLOPE... TOWARDS THE SHEER PRECIPICE BELOW!

"THAT'S WHEN TED MADE HIS DECISION!"
CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER! GOT TO ACTIVATE THE FLY'S DRAGCHUTE FROM HERE--NOW!
FWAAAP!
TED--NO! I'VE GOT TO REACH BRADEN!
NO GOOD! CHUTE'S SLOWING ME DOWN! I'M BEING DRAGGED BACK AWAY FROM HIM!
IN TRYING TO SAVE ME, TED MAY HAVE DOOMED BRADEN!
MUST DO THE ONLY THING I CAN DO--
--AND THAT IS... CUT MYSELF LOOSE!
KWOOSH!
F-FLY, NO!! YOU --YOU'RE HEADED FOR THE CLIFF...
...JUST LIKE IN MY DREAM!!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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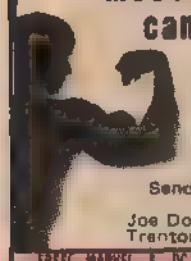

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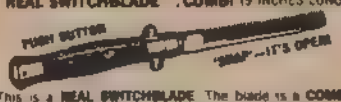

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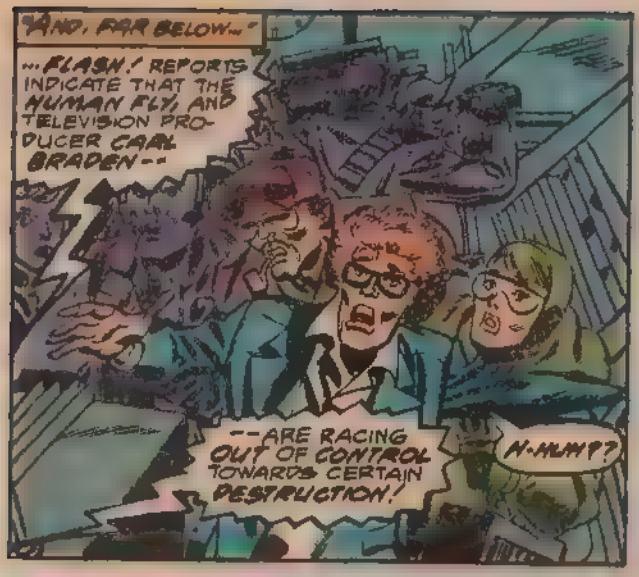
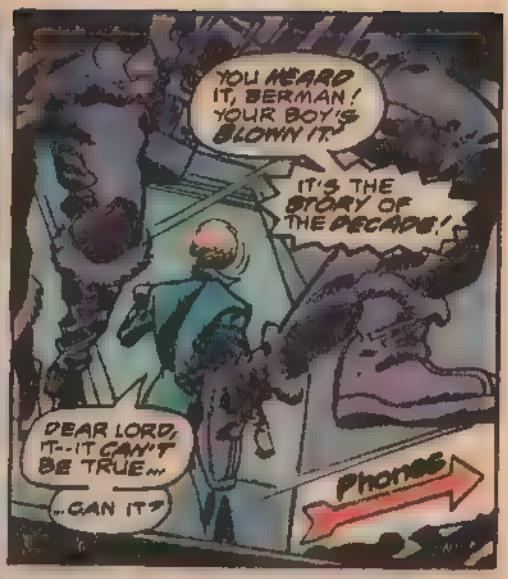
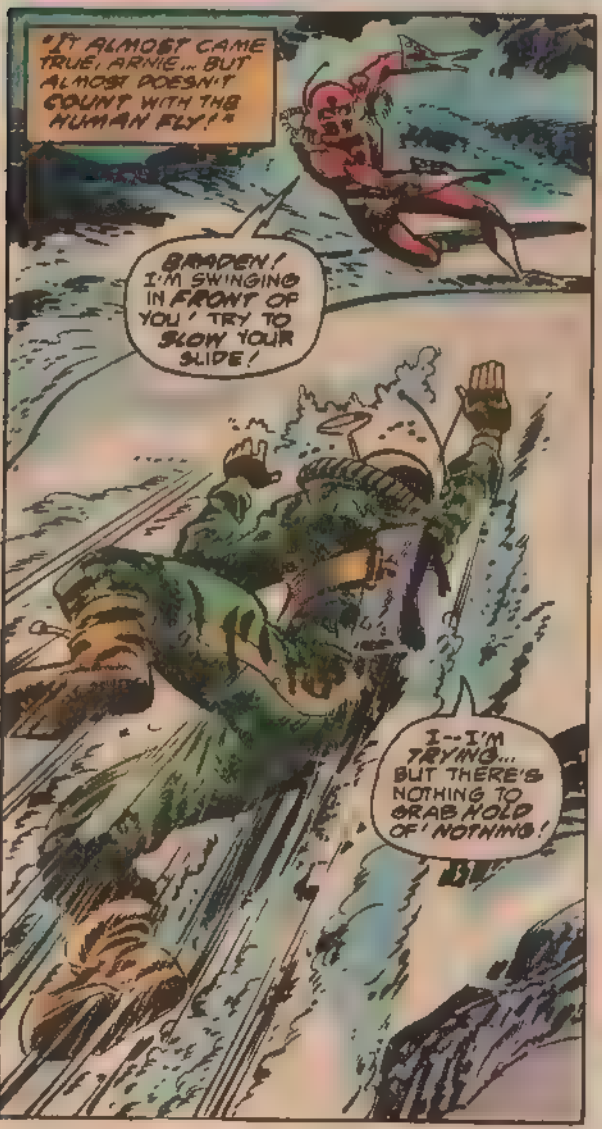
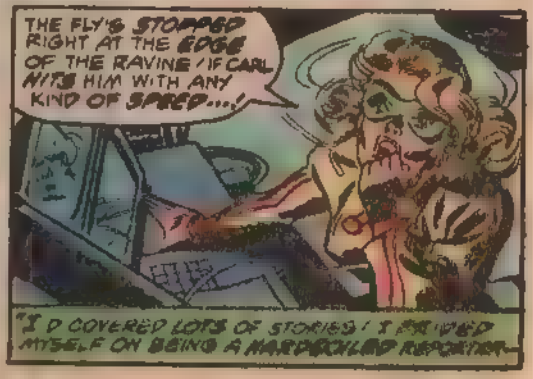
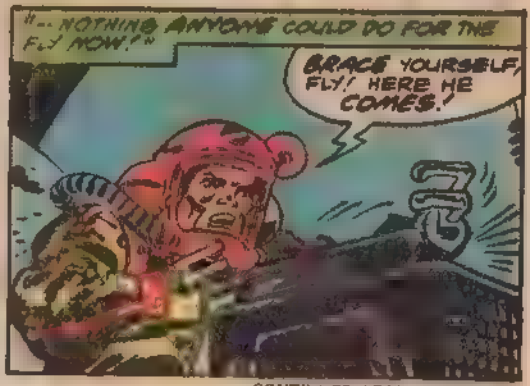
"TWO MEN... ONE WHO BELIEVED IN EVERYTHING-- AND ONE WHO BELIEVED IN NOTHING..."
"... RACED HEADLONG DOWN THE SLOPE OF DEATH!"
HARMONY! THIS IS TED! ANSWER ME, LADY! WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE? WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THE FLY EJECTED HIS DRAG-CHUTE, TED!
HE'S FREE-SKIING TOWARDS THE RAVINE AFTER BRADEN! IT--IT'S ALL OVER!
NOT JUST YET, HARMONY!
F-FLY...?!
YES! I'VE ALMOST REACHED BRADEN! KEEP MONITORING!
DID YOU HEAR THAT, TED??
YES--UNLESS MY HEADSET HAS GONE CRAZY, BLAZE
IF THE FLY SAYS HE'S STILL IN THE RACE, WE'VE GOTTA TRUST HIM!


"AND, FAR BELOW..."
...FLASH! REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE HUMAN FLY, AND TELEVISION PRODUCER CARL BRADEN--
--ARE RACING OUT OF CONTROL TOWARDS CERTAIN DESTRUCTION!
N-NUH??




"IT ALMOST CAME TRUE, ARNIE... BUT ALMOST DOESN'T COUNT WITH THE HUMAN FLY!"
BRADEN! I'M SWINGING IN FRONT OF YOU! TRY TO SLOW YOUR SLIDE!
I--I'M TRYING... BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO GRAB HOLD OF! NOTHING!


THE FLY'S STOPPED RIGHT AT THE EDGE OF THE RAVINE! IF CARL HITS HIM WITH ANY KIND OF SPEED...!
"I'D COVERED LOTS OF STORIES! I PRIDED MYSELF ON BEING A HARD-BOILED REPORTER--



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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Know something? I've gotta learn to speak Japanese! All of a sudden, Marvel is threatening to become the latest and greatest "in" thing in the Land of the Rising Sun! There are special Japanese-version Marvel movies being produced, specially adapted Marvel comics, toys, games, and—for all we know—even Spider-Man Samurai warriors! (We *know* there are SHOGUN warriors, 'cause we're preparing a great new Shogun mag right now, but it's still a secret, so don't let on I told you!) Anyway, just to totally obfuscate the issue, see if you can figure this one out: These wise and witty words are being written for you in the beginning of March, in order to get them printed in time to go on sale in June! Now stay with this, hear? I'm heading for Japan in the middle of May, which is a couple of months from now ("now" being the time I'm writing this)! I'm bustin' to tell you all about my trip, but I can't 'cause I haven't gone yet; although by the time you read this I'll have been *back* for about a month! See why I'm always mixed up? See why we always tell you that Marvel time is different than "real world" time? See why, when someone asks me the date, I panic and run for the hills? But now, before you get too emotional about this, let's welcome all our Japanese friends on board; and, to all of them, and all of you, the mighty voices of Marveldom Assembled now cry out: "YOI toh-MOH-dah-chi ni nah-RI mah-shoh; NAH-kah yoh-ku shi-MAH shoh", which, as all True Believers know, means "Let us be good friends"! And, if the omnipotent Odin will return the Silver Surfer's curling iron to him, one of these days I'll teach you how to say it in English!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! First things first! Our humblest apologies to plucky PETRA GOLDBERG for failing to mention in last month's Bullpen Bulletins her outstanding contribution to Marvel Super Special #4 featuring THE BEATLES STORY. Petra is responsible for the splendiferous *coloring* therein—but since every alert Marvelite already possesses his very own copy, you all knew that anyway.

ITEM! It seems that congratulations are in order for none other than Dauntless DON McGREGOR. Early this April, the lucky guy wed a certain lovely lady by the name of Marsha Childers, and 'twould appear they'll both be on Cloud 9 for quite a while! We at the Bullpen would like to join Marveldom Assembled in wishing the newlyweds all the best.

ITEM! Speaking of Don McGregor, somehow, during what *had* to have been rather hectic weeks before his wedding, the Dauntless One managed to script the masterful tale appearing in MARVEL PREMIERE #43. The story features PALADIN, a hard fisted, sharp-shooting, mildly mercenary sensation first introduced in the pages of DAREDEVIL by JIM (Trouble) SHOOTER. Seldom has a new character evoked such an overwhelming ovation, and so natch, the ever-eager-to-please Bullpen wasted little time bringing him back in his own showcase. It's magnificently illustrated by Tap-dancin' TOM SUTTON and it's on sale now! And by the way, any resemblance between Paladin's damsel-in-distress and Don's blushing bride is probably his doing!

ITEM! Special Events abound this month! After seeming ages of hard work by Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, Rampagin' RON WILSON, and Redoubtable RICARDO VILLAMONTE, the first full-color magazine-size issue of THE HULK is finally on sale—and is it a *doozie*! Yours for only a pittance—a mere $1.50—it portrays the Emerald Behemoth in a manner befitting the mightiest mortal ever to walk the earth. It's all there—the power, the hate, the triumph and the tragedy—truly this is an *epic*! As if the art and story weren't enough, this issue also features a full-color *photo section* devoted to the smash-sensation *Incredible Hulk* TV show! Get to your newsstand *fast*, before they're all gone!

ITEM! Also hot off the presses and available for your reading pleasure is the first Simon and Schuster Pocket Book featuring DOCTOR STRANGE! It's a real collector's item, recalling the Master Mage's earliest and eeriest encounters as dazzlingly depicted by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko! The back cover *alone* is worth the price of admission!

ITEM! More news from Simon and Schuster! THE MIGHTY MARVEL SUPER-HEROES FUN BOOK #3 is in the bookstores now just waiting to provide untold hours of entertainment for Marvel Minions. Check it out!

ITEM! *Whew!* Sometimes we get so caught up in all the fanfare for exceptional items and once-in-a-lifetime deals we almost forget to mention the things that made Marvel great in the first place—namely our regular comics that month after month quietly maintain an incredible standard of excellence—the solid backbone of the line. One such title is CONAN, which as every True Believer knows, is fast approaching its 100th issue. Rascally ROY THOMAS, writer and editor of both the CONAN color comic and THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN black-and-white magazine, has consistently provided excellent stories and arranged for some of the very best artists anywhere to illustrate them. In addition to Big JOHN BUSCEMA, perennial Conan penciller and Eighth Wonder of the World ALFREDO ALCALA, CARMINE INFANTINO, GENE COLAN, and FRANK BRUNNER have all recently illustrated adventures of the sullen-eyed Cimmerian, each in his own distinctive, trend-setting style. Thus, barbarian watchers will be treated to varied visual delights in upcoming months, and we promise you'll love every minute of it.

ITEM! While we're on the subject of visual delights, we trust that everyone is as enamored of the precise pencilling of Jocular JOHN BYRNE as we are. A recent copy of X-MEN should serve as proof that our favorite denizen of the Frozen North has truly risen to Superstar Status! John visited us here in civilization while attending the March *Creation Convention*, and delighted everyone with his warmth and wit. He's a great talent *and* a nice guy. Ask any Armadillo.

ITEM! Just a final note which lends credence to our belief that Mighty Marvel is taking over the world: Did you know that in the smash Broadway musical extravaganza, BEATLEMANIA, a whole passle of Marvel characters are featured in the multimedia presentation? Notable among them are *Magneto, Spitfire, Ms. Marvel, Miss America, the Whizzer, Captain America, the Sub-Mariner, Iron Fist, Power Man*, and more! Isn't fame wonderful? *Hoo-hah!*

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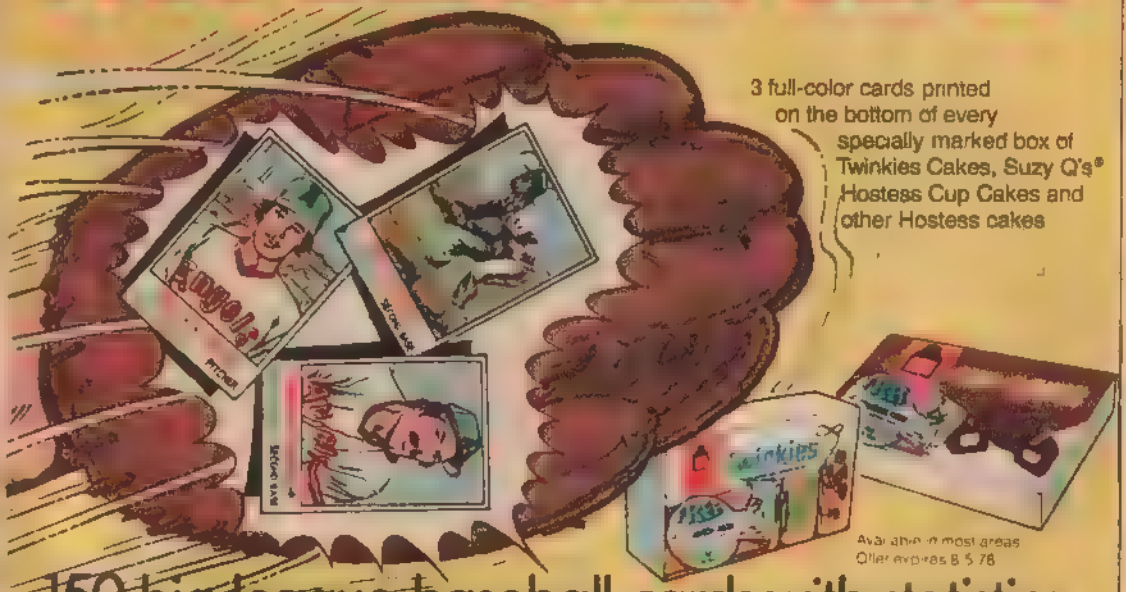

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AND I GUESS THIS QUALIFIES!
IN ANOTHER SECOND BRADEN'LL SEND US BOTH OVER INTO THE RAVINE!
WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME TO USE THE HIDDEN PITON-GUNS YOU STRAPPED TO MY ARMS!
IF THEY CAN'T HOLD US... NOTHING CAN!
PWOOM!
I KNOW, TED... AND I'M GETTING READY TO USE OUR LITTLE SURPRISE! THE ONE YOU WHIPPED UP IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY!
TCHWUNK!
THWUNK!
I HOPE YOU'RE MONITORING ALL THIS, HARMONY!
I DON'T THINK I'LL GET THE CHANCE TO TRY IT TWICE!

MUCH LATER...
X-RAY
THE MAN TRIED TO DEFAME YOU— WHO ALMOST KILLED YOU ... AND YOU'RE VISITING HIM IN THE HOSPITAL??
YES, HARMONY! HE WAS HURT BADLY!
NO INTERVIEWS! KEEP BACK, PLEASE!
MR. BRADEN WASN'T EXPECTING YOU, FLY— BUT HE'LL SEE YOU NOW!
207
THANK YOU!
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MISTER BRADEN?
LIKE A PRIZE FOOL, FLY! I--I ALMOST KILLED YOU UP THERE! IS--IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN SAY THAT I'M ... SORRY?
WELL, I'VE GOT AN ASSISTANT-- AN EXPERT REPORTER--- WHO COULD USE A JOB!
IN FACT, I BELIEVE YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER!
HELLO, CARL!
HARMONY! SO IT WAS YOU DOING THE FILMING FOR THE FLY! I'VE SEEN THE TAPES! THEY'RE GREAT!
EVEN THOUGH THEY TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FLY?
EPECIALLY BECAUSE THEY TELL THE TRUTH! ARE--ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A JOB?
SURE... ON MY OWN TERMS! YOU SEE THE FLY'S TAUGHT ME TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING ... MYSELF!
AND I KNOW NOW THAT I'M AS GOOD A REPORTER AS I WANT TO BE ... AND, MR. BRADEN, I WANT TO BE THE BEST!

NEXT ISSUE / DEATH RIDES THE BIG Balloon

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SEE YOUR MUSCLES GROW DAY BY DAY!

YOU'LL PUT ON INCHES OF POWERFUL MUSCLES ON YOUR BODY!

Our New System will develop muscles so fantastic that your muscles and strength will seem to be almost Super-Human! Thousands have doubled or tripled their strength while following our unique methods. It is actually possible to have everyday muscular growth while following our body-building system! Imagine what you could accomplish while following our methods? Regardless of the shape you're in, WE CAN IMPROVE YOUR BODY 100%! Your own friends won't recognize your body when we get done with it. FANTASTIC, BUT TRUE!

This system is actually 200 to 300% more effective in muscle-building than any form of isometrics. Don't confuse this method with any form of isometrics — this is a 'full-contractional' body-building system. Full Contractional Methods enable you to obtain a FULL MUSCLE PUMP — which is absolutely necessary in muscular growth. Our methods leave nothing to chance — our system develops your body TOTALLY!

TAKE YOUR CHOICE! You Can Do This...

- BUILD POWERFUL MUSCLES....FAST!
- LOSE FAT!
- GAIN MUSCULAR WEIGHT!
- DOUBLE OR TRIPLE YOUR STRENGTH!
- TRIM YOUR WAIST!
- FEEL BETTER

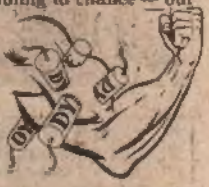
Shape-Up, Get that waistline down and muscularize it!

GET INTO SHAPE

LIKE MORE FACTS?

We'll be glad to send you free colorful brochures and even a free booklet. All you have to do is send us your name and address.

SKINNY? MUSCLES WILL APPEAR . . . ALMOST LIKE MAGIC!



FAT? FAT WILL DISAPPEAR – REPLACED BY MUSCLES!

YOUR NEW MUSCLES WILL FEEL LIKE DYNAMITE!

BE GREAT - BE SOMEBODY SPECIAL!

Improve your health, self-confidence and your outlook on life as you become more muscular. Regardless of your age, height or present build, we'll help you build a fabulous body. Thousands of people have taken this course with fantastic results — why not you? Whatever you look like today, we can improve on it. We guarantee it!!

- ☐ **ARMS** — Develop big, powerful arms — the kind girls love to be held in! Command respect from everyone you meet!
- ☐ **CHEST** — Is your chest sunken and unimpressive? No more! It's easy to build a massive chest. You can measure 45, 47, or even 50 inches!
- ☐ **BACK** — Develop your upper back, and get that outstanding "V-Shape!" Often within one week you'll be able to see that wedge formation begin to take shape — it's a real attention-getter!
- ☐ **SHOULDERS** — Get rid of those puny shoulders! Instead, fill your shirts with bulging muscles!
- ☐ **LEGS** — Put some muscle on those spindly legs! Muscular legs will give you extra power like you've never dreamed possible!
- ☐ **ABDOMEN** — Trim and hard — that's the way your abs should look. Get rid of your pot-belly, improve your digestion, and get that washboard waist—all when you develop those abdominal muscles!

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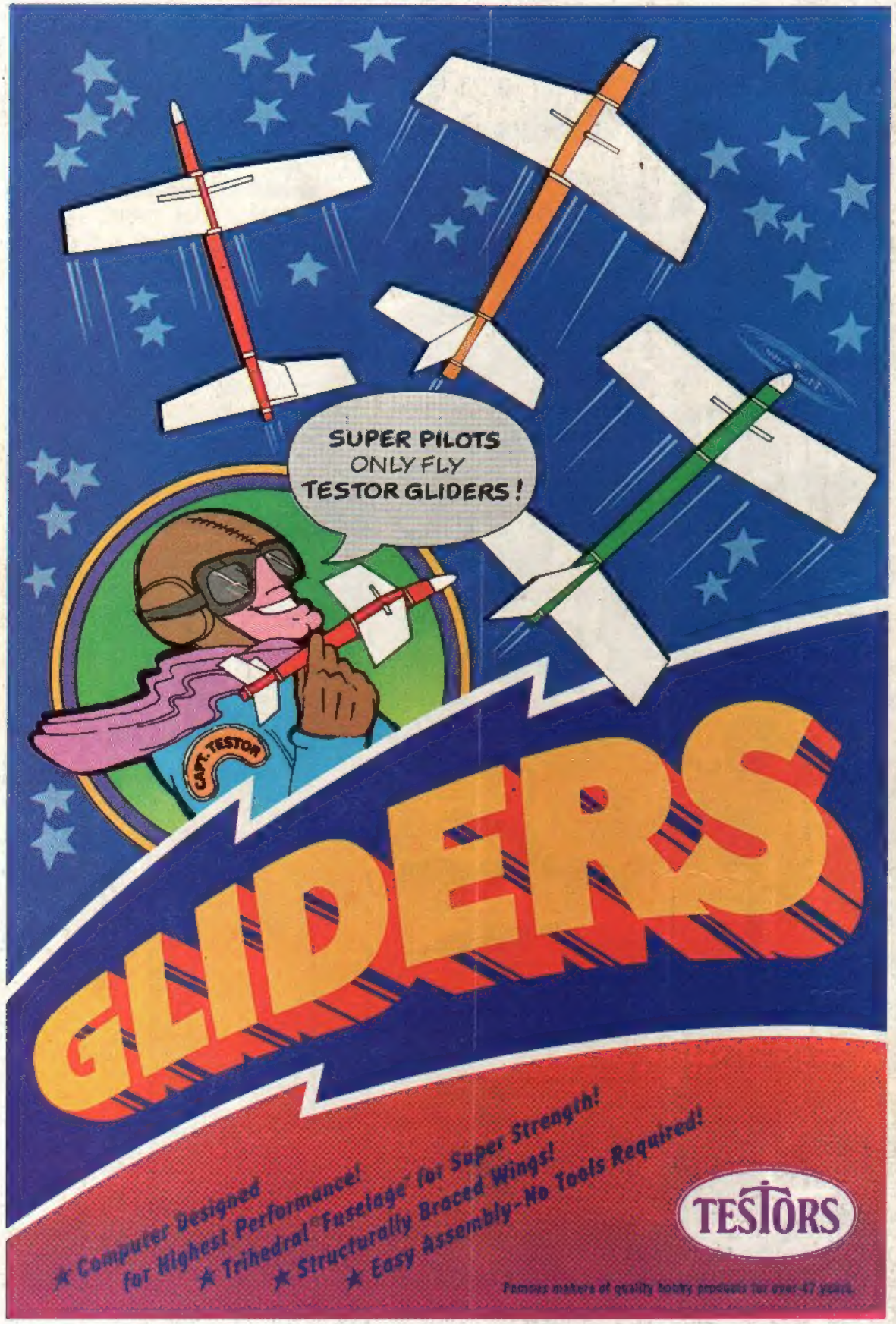
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